



January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing to express my relief and my support for this lawsuit between the Department of Justice and Microsoft having ended in a settlement. From what relatively little specific information I have about the details of this settlement, I can say that it appears to satisfy most of the complaints of the lawsuit. There is, for example, this provision that allows for Microsoft to refrain from penalizing computer manufacturers from installing non-Microsoft applications onto any new Microsoft OS. This is a good thing that will obviously allow more flexibility in the industry.

My greatest fear throughout this process has been that serious damage could have resulted from the splintering of a company like Microsoft. While it must be readily admitted that Microsoft has maintained a rather rigid control over the use of its product, even by its own customers, breaking apart a company of this size, as envisioned by the litigation, could have had far-reaching negative effects upon the entire industry.

With this settlement, it appears as if this eventuality is less likely. For this reason I am hoping that the settlement will ultimately prevail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Epple', is written over a horizontal line.

Todd Epple
Senior Partner